

REP. TOM CAMPBELL

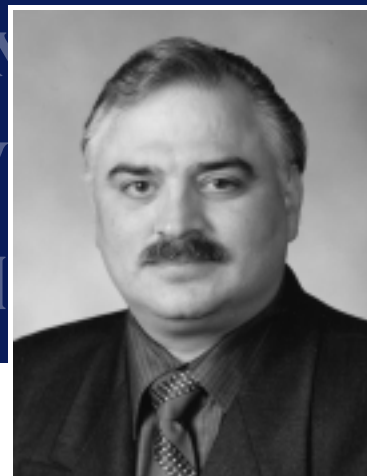
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**SESSION
UPDATE
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TOWN HALL
MEETING
NOTICE**

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REP. TOM CAMPBELL
2ND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

★ ★ **SATURDAY, APRIL 12** ★ ★

**1-2 p.m.
Yelm**

Yelm City Hall
105 S. Yelm Avenue W

**3-4 p.m.
Graham**

Graham Library
9202 244th Street

**5-6 p.m.
Eatonville**

Eatonville City Hall
201 Center Street SE

Dear friends,

The most important part of the legislative session has arrived. The Legislature has until April 27, the final day of the session, to agree on the three state budgets for 2003-05. Some tough decisions about spending will have to be made before these budgets are approved.

I'm most concerned about the operating budget, the biggest of the three, which funds state agencies and services to citizens. The cost of government operations over the next two years is predicted to be billions of dollars more than the state expects to take in from taxes and fees! A number of legislators are talking openly about raising your taxes to help make up that "shortfall." I believe you are paying enough in taxes already. **We should hold the line on taxes, make government leaner and focus on improving the health of our economy.**

Feedback from taxpayers will help me in suggesting changes to the proposed budgets and deciding how to vote on this important legislation. That's why I hope to see you at one of **my town hall meetings on Saturday, April 12**. We'll talk about taxes, roads, public safety, health care, fluoridation, and anything else on your mind.

Let me tell you about a few important measures I have already voted on this session.



I was pleased to sponsor Caleb McKenzie and Kate Hetland of Spanaway as legislative pages during the first week of the session. Thank you both!

MAKING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MORE AFFORDABLE:

I was lead Republican sponsor of a bill that would bring some relief to people who have had trouble finding or affording prescription medication – especially our senior citizens. It passed easily in the House.

I've been working for years, as a member and former co-chair of the Health Care Committee, to **make prescription drugs more affordable for citizens and reduce the burden on taxpayers**. This is the most progress we've made yet.

There was resistance to my legislation from the pharmaceutical companies, and I understand why. But I'm more worried about the needs of our seniors and others whose quality of life depends on getting the medications they need.

BIG PROGRESS ON THE CROSS-BASE HIGHWAY AND MERIDIAN ROAD:

I was appointed to the House Transportation Committee this year, and it's already benefiting our area. The first good news came about a month ago, when the House passed a bill that would **designate the Cross-Base Highway as a "highway of statewide significance."** This gives the project higher priority when it comes to funding.

The second success came just last week. I worked to get **\$15 million for the Cross-Base Highway** included in the 2003-05 transportation budget passed by the Transportation Committee (which may have received approval from the entire House by the time of my Town Hall meetings – I'll let you know then). The House budget proposal also contains **\$32 million over the next four years for widening Meridian Road between 176th and 234th**. This project would be a huge improvement, bringing more safety for schoolchildren, faster emergency response and traffic congestion relief.

The April 12 town hall meetings will be from 1 to 2 p.m. at Yelm City Hall (105 S. Yelm Ave. W), 3 to 4 p.m. at the Graham Library (9202 244th Street) and 5 to 6 p.m. at Eatonville City Hall (201 Center Street SE). No reservations are needed for the town hall meetings. For more information or to arrange special accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call my Olympia office at (360) 786-7912 (individuals who are hearing-impaired may call the TTY-TDD legislative hotline at 1-800-635-9993). I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Rep. Tom Campbell

OLYMPIA OFFICE:

240 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7912

HOME:

P.O. Box 443
Spanaway, WA 98387

E-MAIL: campbell_to@leg.wa.gov

INTERNET: <http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/campbell>

HOUSE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Transportation
Health Care
Judiciary

